

Bloomfield Citizen.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

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SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1892.

FROM CHICAGO.

In these days of intense newspaper partisanship it is very difficult, if not impossible, for the ordinary reader to obtain any reliable political information. We are sure, therefore, that a telegram from Chicago, sent by our special correspondent on the spot, which we print in another column, will be read with great interest. The sender of the telegram has long been in the habit of reading the New York Sun in the morning and the Evening Post at night; which accounts, in our opinion, for his apparent leanings, first toward one candidate, and then toward another. On behalf of our readers we cordially thank our correspondent for the trouble and expense he has taken on our account. It is a little late in the day perhaps, but we wish some good impartial Republican who was present at the Minneapolis Convention, would give us as terse and graphic a description of that notable gathering. People who have not time to read more than ten columns daily, have even yet, a very hazy idea as to what took place.

Some find fault with the Town Committee for having the benches placed on the Park. The Park is public property and as such should be made as useful and enjoyable as possible to the greatest number. The benches are not unsightly, nor are they put where the grass will likely be trodden down. They give the opportunity for rest and quiet enjoyment. The fear that the seats will prove attractive to some who will make themselves a nuisance is, we think, unfounded; and even if the fear is realized, the remedy is a very simple one, as the benches can be removed. We do not anticipate, however, any abuse of the privilege the Town Committee has seen fit to extend to the public, and we feel assured that many are truly grateful for the kindness shown.

"As a rule, man's a fool:
When his hot he wants it cool;
When his cool he wants it hot;
Always wanting what is not;
I maintain, as a rule, man's a fool."

As THE CITIZEN has wiped away the perspiration from its fevered editorial brow and has gently murmured these lines, not with any application of them, however, to itself, the question has suggested itself, Why is it that people will not make the effort to be more comfortable in hot weather? Many fairly melt with discomfort that might be greatly lessened by a little thought and care. The failure to adopt food and clothing to the season and the weather cannot but be followed by unpleasant consequences. Change with the changes is the rule of comfort. During the warm weather wear light clothing and little of it; eat such food as is not heat producing and keep a cool head.

Our sister, Montclair, has given an exhibition of a town meeting which speaks well at least for the interest of its citizens. Lack of interest in and smallness of attendance at public meetings is cause of complaint in most towns and villages. Bloomfield has suffered in this way and appreciates a well-attended and enthusiastic gathering of citizens for the discussion of any public question.

The lightning has lately struck several times in our midst and caused some damage. No one, however, has been killed, though two or three have received severe shocks. A good deal is said of Jersey lightning of another character. The peculiarity of this lightning is that although termed Jersey it yet strikes so very frequently outside the State. New Jersey has for so long been regarded by many of the ignorant as a spot of red mud over which the mosquito hovered, that the increase of knowledge as to its real attractiveness shown by the large number who make it their home, is a hopeful sign of the times.

A Lockup Needed.

Justice Post says that this town needs a lockup. He considers that it would be a good financial investment. Many of the arrests made in Bloomfield are for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. It costs considerable to transport the prisoners to the County Jail at Newark. The Justice is of the opinion that the cost of maintaining the lockup would be derived from the fines imposed. More arrests would be made for causes that come under the head of public nuisance, but not important enough to warrant imprisonment in the County Jail.

Thieves Visit Glenwood Park.

The closet in the pavilion at Glenwood Park was broken into on Wednesday. The thieves took nothing, however, but a quantity of drinking-glasses. A broken ice which they had used was left behind. They also visited Peter McKenna's place on the opposite side of the street and stole a large piece of lead pipe.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

"A Saloon-Keeper's Views."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: It has been very gratifying to many in Bloomfield that the columns of the local newspapers have been open to full and free discussion of questions of public interest. Recently this has been shown in the very full reports given to sermons specially bearing on the saloon question, and the most radical temperance people in town cannot justly find fault. It was hoped by some of us that some one on the side of the saloon would use the opportunity and express his views, and at last our wishes have been gratified, and your columns have furnished us with some statements by "a well-known saloon-keeper."

It is unfortunate that the author of these remarks did not allow his name to be appended to them, and let us all know just who he is. We are quite willing, however, to excuse him, and hope he will regard the criticisms which I shall make as made in a kind and unselfish spirit.

I am sorry that the ministers of Bloomfield are in the very first sentence misrepresented. I do not believe that any minister or temperance advocate in this town has ever described saloon-keepers as "devils incarnate." I suppose I have within the last few weeks uttered as strong words about the saloon business as any temperance advocate is accustomed to use, and I challenge the "well-known saloon-keeper" to find any such expression, or anything like any such expression, in any one of my sermons. The sermons were printed in full and may be easily examined. There is no sense or argument in using language of that sort, and I believe the recent discussion of the evils of the drinking customs of society is scrupulously free from any such language.

I do not at all doubt the readiness of the saloon-keepers to pay their taxes, and to assist in movements of public character. And perhaps they do contribute "as freely" to charity; though it would be interesting to know just how much the saloon-keepers of Bloomfield contributed to the success of the recent fete in aid of the Mountaineers Hospital, or indeed how much they have given of hard cash to that institution since it was founded.

But I must confess, Mr. Editor, that I am just a little amused when this well-known saloon-keeper in one sentence contends that "the saloon-keepers in Bloomfield, taken as a class, are as good citizens as any other class in the community," and then as a representative of this class, in a few sentences further on, freely admits that he habitually violates the laws of the State by selling beer and liquor on Sunday. It may be that I am as yet a little ignorant as to what good citizenship involves, but I have always understood that respect for the existing laws of the commonwealth, and loyalty in upholding those laws, were among the first essentials to good citizenship. Nor will it do for the citizen to set up his opinion against the law, and because he holds that it is a "legislative error" feel that he is perfectly free to violate that law. Such reasoning makes anarchists and not good citizens. This is the very reasoning that brought about the Chicago riots. A company of men who regarded all laws as legislative errors began to defy law and violate law, and had to be dealt with accordingly. Any man, I suppose, has a perfect right to hold any opinion he pleases about certain laws. In that respect this is a free country, but where a man holding opinions opposed to existing laws proceeds deliberately to violate those laws, it seems to me that he, in some measure at least, disqualifies himself to be ranked as a good citizen.

The statement that "the law is better than the people" needs thoughtful consideration. It contains a little grain of truth, but only a very little. The statement certainly is not true as it stands as a universal proposition. Laws are usually made because the people of the Commonwealth themselves desire them, and now-a-days the people of the Commonwealth usually desire a good deal better law than they get. One thing is certain: very seldom, if ever, does a legislative assembly enact a law which is better than the best people have desired. It is rather the truth therefore that the laws are not better than the people—that is, than the best people. There is a sense in which the people are better than the laws, and the laws are what they are because it is so. Water will not rise above the level of its own source. But it is admitted that in one respect it is true that the law is better than the people—that is, than some people. It is always better than the people who want to have it set aside, or who are always ready to violate it. Laws against stealing and murder and wife beating, etc., are better than the thieves or murderers or wife-beaters. This is a principle which the saloon-keeper needs to look into a little and thoughtfully consider. Laws are made for evil-doers, and not for those who never violate them, and therefore it is a necessity of good government that the laws should always be better than the worst people. What a chaos of crime we would be plunged into if it were not so.

I have not time to refer to every statement made in the article in last week's CITIZEN, but I cannot close without a reference to the statement that the saloon is a political necessity and that the spirit of patriotism would soon reach a very low ebb if the saloon were banished. This is a marvellous announcement. The saloon a political necessity? Well, yes, I admit it is a political necessity for just such a hydra-headed monster of a political institution as now holds New York City in its deadly grasp—a political necessity for all sorts of political intrigue and corruption, a political necessity for the furthering of the interests of such things and criminals as now fill the majority of the civic offices in the neighboring metropolis; but a necessity for pure politics and true patriotism and good government, never—in the name of all that is right and righteous, never!

BLOOMFIELD, June 21. CHAS. A. COOK.

Call and see first quality seasonal goods at low prices. Hammocks \$1 up, Hammock Ropes 20c. pair, Croquet Sets \$1 up, Ice Cream Freezers \$1.50 up, Ice Tongs 25c. pair, Ice Picks 15c. up, Lemon Squeezers 20c., Cherry Pitters 75c., at Samuel Peloubet's Hardware Store, 326 Glenwood Avenue.—Adv.

AT THE CHURCHES.

First Presbyterian.

The Rev. H. W. Ballantine, D. D., pastor. Sunday services 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday-school at 12 M.

Westminster Presbyterian.

The pastor, the Rev. Geo. A. Paul, will preach at 10.30 A. M. and 7.45 P. M. Sunday-school at 12 M. Young People's prayer meeting at 7 P. M. All welcome.

German Presbyterian.

Sunday services: Preaching by the pastor, the Rev. H. W. Selbert, at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday-school at 9 A. M. Prayer meeting, Tuesday at 8 P. M. Young People's Society, Friday at 8 P. M.

Park Methodist Episcopal.

SerVICES to-morrow at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Preaching by the pastor, the Rev. R. B. Collins. Sunday-school at noon. Epworth League prayer meeting at 6.45 P. M. Leader, Mr. J. W. Eddy. You will be welcome at this service.

Watessing Methodist Episcopal.

Preaching at 10.30 A. M. and 7.45 P. M. by the pastor, the Rev. Elbert Clement. Sunday-school at 2.30. Young People's meeting at 6.45. Seats free. All welcome.

First Baptist.

SerVICES at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. The pastor will preach in the morning on "The Centenary of Baptist Foreign Missions." In the evening the Rev. G. B. Richardson of Eynsford, England, will preach. Sunday-school and Bible classes at 12 o'clock.

Glen Ridge Congregational.

The Rev. F. J. Goodwin, pastor. Services at 10.30 A. M. and 7.45 P. M. Sunday-school at 3 o'clock. Young People's Society at 7.15 P. M.

Christ Episcopal.

The Rev. Edwin A. White, Rector. Celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 A. M. Morning Prayer, Litany and Sermon at 10.30 A. M. Sunday-school 3 P. M. Evening Prayer with address to Bloomfield Lodge, F. and A. M., at 7.30 P. M.

Communication.

Chicago: Convivial carousers consume champagne, cigars, clam-chowder. Cable cars convey clamoring crowds continuously cheering Caldwell's Chipper Cherub. Convention convenes; circus commences. Chronicle Claimant's campaign cleverly conducted. Courier's contestants cavalierly cut. Cheung's corrupt candidate circumvented. Croker completely crushed. Cherished conceits confounded. Celibate's checkered career curtailed. Curious coinage confusion; cheap customs commended. Cleveland chosen candidate. Chieftain's child cheered. Chief City's Con-Taminted cohorts catch crumbs. Carping critics croak concerning concord. Convention concluded. Can candidate carry country?

CITIZEN.

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Harry Brown Meets with an Accident. As Harry Brown of Montgomery Avenue was driving down that street on Tuesday his horse became unmanageable and ran away at Franklin Street. It came in collision with a lamp-post completely wrecking the vehicle and throwing Mr. Brown heavily to the ground. He was bruised considerably about the head and body, and received a deep gash just above his eye. He was taken to his home and medical aid summoned. He is not so badly injured as has been reported.

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